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TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, May 19, 1983 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended May 14 totaled an estimated 16.0 billion ton-miles, 3.2 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 19 weeks of 1983 was an estimated 289.0 billion ton-miles, 5.3 percent below the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended May 14 totaled 367,233 cars, 4.7 percent below 1982, but 0.7 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.9 percent in the South, but down 10.7 percent in the East and 3.6 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1982, nine of the 21 commodity groups were up. Loadings of lumber and wood products were up 20.2 percent, nonmetallic minerals posted a gain of 17.0 percent, and stone, clay and glass products increased by 10.1 percent. Thirteen of the 21 group were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended May 7 totaled 44,856 cars, up 24.4 percent from the corresponding week of 1982, and 77,151 trailers and/or containers, 16.3 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 18 weeks of the year was 754,268 cars, 16.5 percent higher than last year, and 1,290,719 trailers and/or containers, up 12.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 5/14/83:

	Loadings in Week ended May 14, 1983		Change from Corresponding Week 1982			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	20,578	D	4,068	16.5	D	1,235	5.7
Other farm products	3,746	D	633	14.5	I	2	0.1
Metallic ores	20,773	D	424	2.0	I	160	0.8
Coal	102,351	D	16,896	14.2	I	1,747	1.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,871	I	369	3.5	I	338	3.2
Nonmetallic minerals	11,681	I	1,701	17.0	I	1,352	13.1
Grain mill products	11,569	D	125	1.1	I	271	2.4
Food and kindred products	11,845	D	1,770	13.0	I	43	0.4
Primary forest products	15,576	I	157	1.0	I	192	1.2
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,280	I	1,225	20.2	I	40	0.6
Pulp, paper and allied products	15,107	D	1,364	8.3	D	21	0.1
Chemicals and allied products	23,102	D	404	1.7	D	628	2.6
Petroleum products	4,601	D	178	3.7	D	96	2.0
Stone, clay and glass products	11,336	I	1,038	10.1	I	624	5.8
Coke	4,702	I	111	2.4	D	156	3.2
Metals and products	8,097	D	1,661	17.0	I	79	1.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,860	I	910	5.4	D	46	0.3
Waste and scrap materials	8,725	D	38	0.4	I	534	6.5
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	8,130	D	414	4.8	D	187	2.2
All other carloads	49,047	I	4,541	10.2	D	322	0.7
LCL traffic	256	I	8	3.2	I	2	0.8
Total Cars Loaded	367,233	D	17,915	4.7	I	2,693	0.7
Corresponding week of 1982	385,148						

	1983	1982	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (19 weeks)	6,639,214	7,233,051	D 8.2
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
18 weeks ended May 7	273.0	288.6	D 5.4
Week ended May 14	16.0	16.5	D 3.2
19 weeks cumulative	289.0	305.1	D 5.3

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